



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

July 2019

Volume 3



Introducing the 2019 Video Training Series for Municipal Elections

To better meet the needs of committees and candidates across the state, the State Elections Enforcement Commission is creating a series of training videos on municipal campaign finance!

The first four videos are now available on the SEEC website:

1. The Candidate
2. Selecting a Funding Source
3. The Treasurer
4. Filing Reports and Appointing Solicitors

These videos provide bite-sized instructions on the most important aspects of getting your campaign started. View the videos any time and as often as you like with your computer, smartphone or tablet. Stay tuned for more informative videos on municipal campaign finance rules and on completing financial disclosure filings.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to call the Candidate Services Unit:
860-256-2985.



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2019 Municipal and Town Committee Trainings

We continue to offer training sessions suited for both municipal candidates and town committees. Head to our training webpage, <https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/training/Landing>, to reserve your seat at an upcoming training today!

Monday, July 22, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	Westport Public Library 20 Jesup Rd, Westport, CT 06880
Wednesday, July 24, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	Torrington City Hall 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790
Saturday, July 27, 2019	10:30am-12:30pm	Durham Public Library 7 Maple Ave, Durham, CT 06422
Monday, July 29, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	SEEC 5 th Floor Conference Room 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Wednesday, July 31, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	Colchester Town Hall, Room 1 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415
Thursday, September 5, 2019	6:00pm-8:00pm	SEEC 5 th Floor Conference Room 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106





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SEEC's New Website



Over the past year, SEEC has been changing the formatting of its website to be in compliance with the protocols set forth by the Department of Administrative Services' Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology as it moves all state agency websites over to a new portal. You will find the look and feel of the website to be different but the content will remain the same and hopefully you will find it better organized and more user friendly.

Please note that as a result of moving over to the new portal, the URL of the SEEC website will soon change to the following: <https://portal.ct.gov/seec>

Thank you for your patience as we make the move!



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Records Set in 2018

It was a banner year for the Citizens' Election Program in 2018 with a record number of candidates registered (524) and a record number of grant applications (336).

More women candidates received clean election grants in 2018 under the CEP than at any time in the past, with 127 grants awarded. The previous high was in 2014, when 80 women candidates applied and were awarded grants. In other words, in 2018, there were 59% more clean election grants awarded to women candidates than ever before. Across the country, the 2018 elections produced an increase in women serving in state legislatures from 25.3% to 28.5 % -- or a 3.2% increase. In Connecticut, 2018 produced even a bigger jump, from 27.3% to 33.2% -- a 5.9% increase, or 84% more than the national average. Go Connecticut!



Proposed Declaratory Ruling Concerning Secondary Payees Out for Comment

In response to a petition for a declaratory ruling, the Commission has issued Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2019-03 concerning a campaign's requirement to report payments to subvendors, or secondary payees, when the campaign pays a provider for campaign services and knows the provider will be paying another vendor on the campaign's behalf. The Commission welcomes all members of the public to review the draft, available [HERE](#), and submit comments.

Comments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, and will be considered at the Commission's July 17, 2019 regular meeting.

New Haven Mayoral Filings at SEEC

All 2019 New Haven mayoral campaign filings are now available on the SEEC website for public viewing!

The New Haven Democracy Fund, a public financing program available to candidates running for mayor in the City of New Haven, requires participating candidates to file their financial disclosure statements electronically with SEEC. Mayoral candidates not participating in the Democracy Fund may use eCRIS as well. All New Haven mayoral candidate filings, whether participating or not, can be viewed on the SEEC website.

Please note that because the Municipal Campaign Financing Filing Pilot Program was only for the 2017 election cycle, New Haven mayoral campaigns are the only municipal filings available on eCRIS for the 2019 municipal cycle.



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Lobbyist Solicitation and Contribution Ban Resumes During Any Special Session

Lobbyists and covered committees are reminded that the sessional ban on lobbyist solicitations and contributions applies during any special session of the General Assembly held between the adjournment of the 2019 regular session and the convening of the next regular session and to any reconvened session to reconsider vetoed bills. For more information on the restrictions, please see our [2019 Sessional Ban Reminder](#). Political committees established by or on behalf of lobbyists face similar restrictions – further information may be found [here](#).

July Quarterly Filing Due Wednesday, July 10, 2019



The July quarterly filing is due by Wednesday, July 10, 2019, and is required of all town committees, state central committees, political committees, and candidate committees and slate committees registered for the 2019 and 2020 election cycles. **2018 candidate committees are required to terminate before this deadline and therefore will not be filing it.**

Town committees, state central committees, ongoing political committees that are registered with SEEC, and 2020 exploratory and candidate committees must electronically submit their filings by 11:59 p.m. on July 10, 2019. If you are exempt from using eCRIS, your paper filing must be in our office by 5:00 p.m. that day.

Open municipal exploratory, candidate, and slate committees, as well as political committees registered at the local level, file with their town clerk's office. The filing must be postmarked by July 10th or dropped off with the town clerk's office by close of business on the 10th.

As always, check the posted [2019 Filing Calendars](#) on our website for more details.



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2018 Candidate Committees – Time to Terminate and Submit Your Remaining Documentation

All candidate committees selected for post-election review must distribute their surplus by no later than June 30, 2019 and file a termination statement by July 8, 2019 if they have not already done so.

Committees were asked to submit expenditure documentation covering from inception of the committee through December 2018 back in early January. Please remember that ALL documentation is due when you terminate for any activity that occurred between the initial registration of the committee and termination.

If you participated in the CEP, you do not need to submit any contribution-related documents that you submitted for the grant application again. Also, if you have already given us your expenditure documents through December, you do not have to resubmit them – just submit the documents from December through termination at the time you submit your termination statement. If you have already terminated but have not submitted all documents, you must do so before July 8, 2019.

The process from here:

The Disclosure Unit is reviewing the documents in-house from the inception of the committee through December to make sure they contain certain types of documents which are absolutely necessary to begin a review, such as bank statements. If any of these are found missing, the committee will have received an “open items” request.

Once the committee has terminated, provided all documents from inception through termination as well as any identified in an open items list, the post-election review can begin.

At this point, the Disclosure Unit will look at all of the documents submitted and perform a stratified review. Once the review is completed, the committee will receive a draft post-election review report. At this point, the committee may provide written responses and any additional documentation not yet provided that they would like considered.

A list of the documents needed for post-election review can be found on our website. Please contact your elections officer if you have any questions or need assistance with the process.



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Contact Us

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Staff Spotlight

Congratulations to Staff Attorney Ryan Burns and his family who welcomed a second son on June 4, 2019.